

**Remarks**

Claim 1 has been canceled. Claims 1 and 11 are currently amended. Claim 13 has been added. Claims 1 and 3-13 are pending.

**§ 103 Rejections**

Claims 1, 4, 5, and 11 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Strong (U.S. 3,925,219).

Claims 7-9 have been indicated as allowed.

Claims 2, 3, 6, 10 and 12 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim.

Applicants have rewritten claim 2 in independent form as claim 1. New claim 13 is the combination of former claim 1 with claim 10.

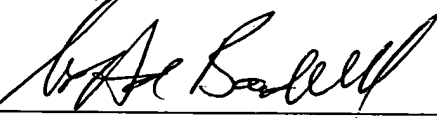
Claim 11 was identified as being allowable if the radiation curable binder precursor were not optional. Applicants have amended claim 11 so that the radiation curable binder precursor is not optional.

In view of the above amendments, Applicants respectfully request that the above rejection of claims 1, 4, 5, and 11 be withdrawn.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Allowance of claims 1 and 3-13, as amended, at an early date is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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